

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-13, 15, 16, 19, and 25-40 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of copending Application No. 10/502,931.

Claims 20-24 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of copending Application No. 10/501,711.

The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to for containing more than 150 words.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 14, 17, and 18 contain allowable subject matter.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants respectfully submit concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer, thereby placing the claims in condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended the Abstract of the Disclosure, and have filed an IDS pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Objection to the Abstract

The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to for containing more than 150 words. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the Abstract to be within the required range of 50-150 words. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Abstract be withdrawn.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-13, 15, 16, 19, and 25-40 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 3-11 of copending Application No. 10/502,931. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the obviousness-type double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 20-24 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3, 22, and 24 of copending Application No. 10/501,711. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the obviousness-type double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-40 are in allowable condition and pending for consideration. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of record.

CONCLUSION

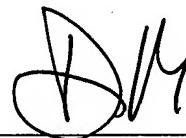
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner believe that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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